Investment In Exploration Projects

2938. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the sector-wise investment in oil exploration by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of oil and natural gas finds, sector-wise;

(c) the criteria for selection of new areas for oil exploration;

(d) whether the present system is proposed to be reviewed in view of the lack of any significant success;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) In the last three years, ONGC have spent Rs. 1283.65 Crores on exploration offshore, and Rs. 1682.15 crores on onshore exploration.

(b) In these years, there have been 25 oil finds in the offshore region, and 33 oil finds onshore.

(c) There are scientific and time tested procedures and practices of integrated data interpretation and rigorous analysis.

(d) to (f). Decision making systems are continuously reviewed with the aim of obtaining optimum results.

Additional Funds for Power Sector

2939. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has been approached to allocate additional funds for power projects including the thrust areas of transmission and distribution; and

(b) if so, the details of the funds sought and the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Adequate funds have been sought for the power programme in the 8th plan including the areas of transmission and distribution. The Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised.

Coach Repair Unit Mancheswar

2940. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway coach manufacturing and repairing unit, Mancheswar, Orissa is not running to full capacity;

(b) if so, the capacity of this unit and the reason for its under utilization; and

(c) the steps being taken for full utilization of its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The Workshop at Mancheswar is a maintenance workshop for the periodic overhauling of coaches and not for manufacturing of coaches. The ultimate planned capacity of this workshop is to overhaul 1200 coaches per year. The present capacity is for overhauling 480 coaches per year and the available capacity is being fully utilised.